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More Indian-Americans Contesting Polls This Year

Washington: (IANS) With the rise of 'desi power', as people of Indian origin call themselves, a record number of Indian Americans are running for public office this year.

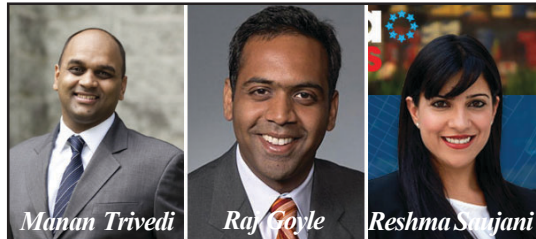
In addition to Nikki 'Randhawa' Haley, who brushed aside allegations of marital infidelity and an ethnic slur to become the Republican nominee for governor in South Carolina, Indian Americans are campaigning this year for congressional seats in Pennsylvania, Kansas, California, New York and Ohio.

More than a dozen others serve in senior positions in the Obama administration, including US Chief Information Officer Vivek Kundra and USAID chief Rajiv Shah.

Like Haley, most of the politicians in races this year are second-generation immigrants who volunteered for local political campaigns, served

in state legislatures or worked on Capitol Hill, the Washington Post noted Tuesday.

Manan Trivedi, a doctor and Iraq war veteran, recently won the Democratic primary in Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District. Before running for Congress, he served as a healthcare adviser to the Obama campaign.



Manan Trivedi

Raj Goyle

Reshma Saujani

Raj Goyle, who has served in the Kansas legislature for three years, is running in the Democratic primary in the 4th Congressional District, which includes Wichita.

Reshma Saujani, a Democratic fundraiser in the South Asian community, says she is the first Indian American woman to run for Congress.

"I always wanted to serve, but I never thought someone with my name could actually run," Saujani, who is challenging Democratic House member Carolyn B. Maloney in the Sep 14 primary, told the Post.

Full report on Pg 17.....



Atlanta: Four Years Down The Line



As NRI Pulse reaches the four-milestone, we ask experts in the areas of real estate, hospitality and technology, how world events and time have affected their respective fields since 2006.

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The Grand Indian Lunch Buffet: Great Value?



"All you can eat" buffet. Is the range worth the low price? We posed this question to our readers.

Pg 6.....

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Time Apologizes For Article On Indian-Americans

Washington: (IANS) Time magazine has apologized to Indian Americans after some of them took umbrage at a humor piece, which they said has racist overtones, about the community in Edison, New Jersey, where every fifth resident is a native of India.

"We sincerely regret that any of our readers were upset by Joel Stein's recent humor column My Own Private India. It was in no way intended to cause offense," the prestigious US magazine said as the community protest snowballed.

"I truly feel stomach-sick that I hurt so many people," wrote columnist Stein, who had given his own take on he had seen Edison, where he had grown up, change over the years with the desi influx.

"I was trying to explain how, as someone who believes that immigration has enriched American life and my hometown in particular, I was shocked that I could feel a tiny bit uncomfortable with my changing town when I went to visit it. If we could

understand that reaction, we'd be better equipped to debate people on the other side of the immigration issue," he wrote. The advocacy group South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) launched an online petition asking the editors of Time to organize a panel discussing the article's impact and to dedicate a special space in the magazine's upcoming edition to response from the Indian-American community.



Kal Penn

Joel Stein

Indian American actor Kal Penn, former associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, too weighed in on the issue with a column titled "The Hilarious Xenophobia of Time's Joel Stein" in Huffington Post.

"I want to applaud Joel Stein for his hilarious account of Edison, New Jersey in his Time magazine article; it is unique and groundbreaking as Thomas Alva himself," he wrote.

"Critics might call Mr. Stein's humor super-tired or as played out as the jokes about that cheap Jewish

car that stopped on a dime to pick it up, or that African American kid who got marked absent at night school.

"Although unlike Stein's Indian American piece, in 2010 those other jokes don't show up in mainstream media like Time magazine. I wonder why that is..." Penn added.

Writing about the changes in his home town, Stein had written: "Eventually, there were enough Indians in Edison to change the culture. At which point my townsfolk started calling the new Edisonians 'dot heads'. One kid I knew in high school drove down an Indian-dense street yelling for its residents to 'go home to India'," Stein wrote.

"Sometime after I left, the town became a maze of charmless Indian strip malls and housing developments. Whenever I go back, I feel what people in Arizona talk about: A sense of loss and anomie and disbelief that anyone can eat food that spicy."

"I never knew how a bunch of people half a world away chose a random town in New Jersey to populate. Were they from some Indian state that got made fun of by all the other Indian states and didn't want to give up that feeling? Are the malls in India that bad? Did we accidentally keep numbering our parkway exits all the way to Mumbai?" Stein wondered.